

not (and to present the other series of your A.S. Resolutions.  
He is considerably improved. I trust the Progress will  
only one day. He has (indeed) gone to Washington  
to the January terms for him, as he remained there  
P.S. Richard failed to get the letter you sent

1868

Roxbury, Dec. 24, 1868.  
(To S. J. May.)

My beloved Friend:

It is now too late seasonably to wish you "a merry Christmas," but not to express the hope that the approaching New Year will be one of signal happiness and enjoyment to you.

I am admonished by your letter of the 16th inst. how remiss I have been in writing to you. It is such a pleasure to see your handwriting that I owe it to myself, as well as to you, to see that I promptly reciprocate all your epistolary favors. But, never meaning to delay, I have nevertheless such a habit of procrastination in such matters, partly owing to my aversion to pen and ink, as to make my delinquencies as mortifying as they are inexcusable. You are too kind and forbearing ever to make any complaint, though I often deserve "a good scolding," which is something not particularly good, after all. You are a model of generosity!

My dear household love to you, and Charlotte and family.

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I am glad to give you the assurance that my dear wife is again as well as usual, though she has had a very narrow escape of a sudden termination of her earthly life within the last two months. Her disease assumed a dropsical form, and threatened an overflow of the heart. For ten days she was very much distressed, and could not lie down, especially on her right side, without a sense of immediate suffocation. She had previously had a cough, with a very free expectoration; and this was suddenly checked, doubtless to some extent congesting the lungs. Though she is now looking and feeling very much better, a case like hers is as a sword suspended over the head by a single hair. It will be five years on the 31st inst. since she received her paralytic stroke. During all this period of helplessness and confinement, she has borne herself with absolute resignation, not a murmur having escaped her lips. Most warmly do I respond to your declaration, that "few men have been so highly

blessed as we have been in our conjugal and filial relations." So intimate and so long has been the friendship between us, that we are able to testify in this matter without any disposition to exaggerate. I believe I was something of a favorite with your now sainted wife; and how much my dear Helen loves and reveres you, you know only in part. What a happiness it is to parents to have their children "rise up and call them blessed"! Ah, and to have their grandchildren do the same thing — as we may hope ours will!

Speaking of the last, I may mention that Ellie's baby-boy has just got comfortably through one of "the ills that flesh is heir to," namely, the measles. He is just six months old, and the incarnation of contentment and good nature. Fanny's darling little girl is developing finely, and is indeed a household treasure. These grandchildren take my affectional nature with a conquering power, and make me feel paradoxically old and young at the same time — especially young!

Wm. L. Garrison  
Dec. 24. 1860

I am delighted to hear that your estimable son John has had a son given to him, whose name is to be Samuel Joseph. May the line extend through many generations! Of course, the new comer shall receive from me hearty welcome and fervent benediction. What a character, what a life, what an example you will bequeath to him!

Mr. Villard is greatly obliged to you for so promptly distributing the Circulars forwarded by him to you. As Secretary of the Social Science Association, he is emphatically "the right man in the right place," largely stocked with all kinds of knowledge, and zealous to give efficiency to the Association by the widest co-operation.

Our dear friend R. D. Webb, who has been staying with us for some time, left us to-day for Providence, where he has gone to be with his daughter, who has greatly improved in her health, and who will come back with him next week. He was much gratified to read what you said of him and her in your letter.

Your deeply attached friend,  
Wm. Lloyd Garrison.

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Our household love to you, and Charlotte and family.